

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

- 5 [0012] The OMCS tool comprises means for inputting traffic data; customer data; and financial and ~~labour~~ labor data; and means for inputting technology options ~~comprising which comprise~~ one or more of the following technology: TDM, ATM, FR, IP, VPN, MPLS, and optical Ethernet including fiber, synchronous optical network (SONET), resilience packet ring (RPR), and dense wavelength division
- 10 multiplexing (DWDM), for a network architecture for a business solution; and means for inputting management processes options for the network management processes and the service and customer management processes for managing the network architecture for the business solution.

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Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

- [0021] The means for engineering the service and customer management processes comprises a means for engineering one or more of the following processes:
- 20 customer relationship management (CRM); work order management (WOM); network inventory management ([NIM]) NIM; service activation and provisioning (SAP); fault management (FM); performance management (PM); accounting and billing; and security management.

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Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

- [0022] The means for determining the network management processes cost comprises a means for computing a process cost per NE for each NE in the network architecture for each of the network management processes ~~[[cost]]~~ based on whether the operations of each of the network management processes is performed using one or more of the following: a manual operations mode; a mechanized operations mode;
- 30

and a manual and mechanized operations mode. The means for determining the service and customer management processes cost comprises a means for computing a process cost per link for each link in the network architecture for each of the service and customer management processes [[cost]] based on whether the operations of each of the service and customer management processes is performed using one or more of the following: a manual operations mode; a mechanized operations mode; and a manual and mechanized operations mode.

10 **Please delete paragraphs [0023] to [0029].**

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

15 [0030] A further aspect of the invention provides a ~~computer-implemented~~ method for assessing business solutions comprising alternative network architectures and management processes for a telecommunications network. The method comprises the steps of inputting data and options for plurality of network architectures and management processes by an analyst; and engineering the plurality of network
20 architectures and the management processes based on the input data and options. The method comprises the steps of determining suppliers' equipment and management processes costs. The management processes comprise network management processes and service and customer management processes for managing the plurality of network architectures. The method comprises the steps of determining, based on the
25 costs of the plurality of network architectures and the management processes, business parameters for the business solutions; and storing or displaying the business parameters for the business solutions for the telecommunications network.

30 Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] The method comprises the step of validating and calibrating the data and

options and the costs for the network architectures; network management processes; and service and customer management processes for the business solutions.

- 5 Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] The method comprises the steps of inputting traffic data, customer data, and ~~labour~~ labor and financial data; inputting technology options ~~comprising~~ which comprise one or more of the following technology: TDM, ATM, FR, IP, VPN, MPLS, and optical Ethernet including fiber, SONET, RPR, and DWDM, for a network architecture for a business solution; and inputting management processes options for the network management processes and the service and customer management processes for managing the network architecture for the business solution.

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Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0035]:

[0035.1] Another aspect of the invention provides a computer-readable medium containing program instructions for causing a computer to perform the above method for assessing the business solutions for the telecommunications network. In one embodiment of this invention, the program is a self-contained Microsoft EXCEL-based decision support software tool comprises a plurality of EXCEL workbooks. In another embodiment of this invention, the program is a self-contained software tool comprises a plurality of sub-programs linked together and the sub-programs are written in one or more of the following computer languages: machine language, C/C++, virtual basic, and Java.

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Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

[0061] The input user data 110 means enables an analyst to input user data and options for a plurality of network architectures to be modeled. The input user data

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comprises traffic data; customer data; and financial and ~~labour~~ labor data. The options enable the analyst to select technology alternatives for network architectures and management processes for business solutions for a telecommunications network.